

Red-backed Vole

Clethrionomys gapperi

Habitat Preference: Red-backed voles prefer old growth, boreal forest remnants in north central Iowa. They need classic understory with fallen rotting logs.

Threats:

- Disturbance has a negative affect on red-backed voles.
- Opening up an area will create more edge which will bring in prairie voles which will out-compete red-backed voles. This disturbance can come in many forms such as timber harvesting or grazing.
- Red-backed voles are cyclic; they have large booms in population numbers then sudden crashes (this is natural).
 - The problem comes when one of the crashes happens at the same time as devastating disturbance.
 - This has the possibility to wipe out entire populations.

Appropriate Practices:

- Establishment of new trees on the periphery of timber known to house red-backed voles or close to bogs or wetland.
- Limit grazing in timber.
- Minimize disturbance on small tracts of timber.
- Keep disturbance on large tracts of timber to less than 10% of the area at any one time.